

General Frome was an Associate of the Institution of Civil Engineers for fifty-two years. He was elected a Fellow of this Society May 11, 1838.

HARRY TAYLOR was born at Bocking, in the County of Essex, on May 29, 1831. He was a descendant of an old Huntingdonshire family which formerly bore the name of Taylard. Mr. Taylor received his education at Mr. Malleson's school at Hove, and at University College, London. He took much interest in astronomy, but did not devote himself to any special research. As a business man he was extremely shrewd and clever, and possessed faculties that were of high value to the firm of which he was a member. He died April 27, 1890, after a short illness.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society November 10, 1871.

ALFRED WELD was born on August 5, 1823. He was the son of Mr. George Weld, of Seagrave, and grandson of Mr. Thomas Weld, of Lulworth—a well-known county family. He was educated at Stonyhurst, where he took a prominent place. In 1842 he entered the Society of Jesus, and in 1847 graduated at the London University. In 1848 he took charge of the meteorological observatory at Stonyhurst, in which position he continued for three years.

During this period, in 1848, the late Father Secchi, who was then a theological student, came to Stonyhurst in consequence of the expulsion of the Jesuits from Rome. Father Weld showed him round the Observatory, and interested him so much in the work that there are some grounds for believing Secchi was thereby induced to devote himself to astronomy. There is a tradition at Stonyhurst that Secchi's first astronomical observations were made with the 4-inch equatoreal of that Observatory.

In 1851 Father Weld retired from scientific work in order to devote himself to theological studies. He was ordained in 1854, and resumed charge of the Observatory in 1857.

In the magnetic survey of Great Britain, undertaken by Sir Edward Sabine in 1858, Father Weld was much interested; and having purchased a set of instruments, he inaugurated that series of magnetic observations which has been carried on uninterruptedly at Stonyhurst Observatory to the present time. At this period also he organised the astronomical work of the College.

In 1860 Father Weld resigned charge of the Observatory, and was succeeded by the late Father Perry.

In 1864 he was made Provincial of the English Province of the Society of Jesus, and in that position did much to aid and encourage the work at the Stonyhurst Observatory. In 1871 he was appointed Rector of the theological college of St. Beunc. In 1873 he became assistant to the Father-General of the Society

of Jesus, and finally, in 1884, he was made Superior of the Mission on the Zambesi. He died at St. Aidan's College, Grahamstown, on July 24 of the past year.

Father Weld was a man of exceedingly polished manners, and distinguished by great energy and tact in the conduct of business. He was twice employed by His Holiness Pope Leo XIII. in the management of delicate affairs, in which he succeeded admirably. How bravely he bore himself at Gibraltar under the savage attack of a mob of roughs is well known. He never lost his interest in science. When Provincial he gave Father Perry all possible encouragement. When Superior of the Zambesi Mission he set up a Stevenson screen and meteorological instruments at St. Aidan's College. Moreover, he purchased a set of instruments for observing the magnetic elements, and sent an assistant to M. d'Abbadie to be trained in their use, so that he might make magnetic observations in his missionary journeys. Unfortunately, the instruments becoming damaged, without means of getting them repaired, the attempt was rendered abortive.

Father Weld published a few communications in Vol. XI. of the *Monthly Notices*. He contributed several articles on scientific subjects to the *Month*, and he was the author of an extensive historical work on the suppression of the Jesuits in Portugal.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society January 12, 1849.

CHRISTIAN HEINRICH FRIEDRICH PETERS was born on September 19, 1813, at Coldenbüttel, in the province of Schleswig, where his father, Hartwig Peters, was a minister. He received his early education, from 1825 to 1832, at the Gymnasium at Flensburg, and subsequently proceeded to Berlin, where he studied mathematics and astronomy under Encke. After taking his Doctor's degree in 1836 he tried to obtain an appointment at the Copenhagen Observatory, in which he was unsuccessful. He then went to Göttingen to pursue his studies under Gauss. He subsequently accompanied Sartorius von Waltershausen to Mount Etna to make a scientific survey of the mountain, and afterwards was made director of the Trigonometrical Survey of Sicily, which position he occupied for some years.

On the revolution breaking out in 1848 he took part against the Government, and was deprived of his appointment. He had to escape on board an English vessel to Malta, whence he soon returned to Sicily, where he took service in the Sicilian army as Captain of Engineers, under Mieroslawski. He soon became major, and under his direction Catania and Messina were fortified. When Palermo fell into the hands of the Neapolitans in May 1849, Peters fled to France, but shortly afterwards proceeded to Constantinople.

Here he made many friends, and the Sultan proposed to send him in charge of a scientific expedition to Syria and Palestine.

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